



Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
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The Honorable Marla Graff Decker
Secretary of Public Safety
Office of the Governor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Secretary Decker,

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA) has examined the issue of placement of the Virginia Office of EMS. The accompanying VFCA Whitepaper provides the methodology, discussion, conclusion and recommendations.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. The Health and Human Resources and Public Safety Secretariats or an appointed Task Force work together to address issues negatively affecting the EMS system.
2. The Health and Human Resource and Public Safety Secretariats or an appointed Task Force evaluate placement of EMS. Additionally to work towards elevating EMS within state government to that equal to other public safety entities and demonstrate the importance EMS plays in public health and public safety.
3. Review options of enhanced liaison between EMS and public safety to ensure EMS has a presence at the state level on key planning, funding and response issues should movement to Public Safety not occur.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association stands ready to support these recommendations and to be a part of and engaged with the Administration and with other EMS stakeholders to improve the Commonwealth of Virginia's EMS program.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Werner, President